United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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"USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office wishes you a joyful holiday season full of snow!"

Montana's 2008 wheat production increased 10 percent from last year's production, due in part to higher seeded acres and higher yields. The average yield, at 30.1 bushels per acre, was a half bushel higher than last year. Montana farmers seeded 2.6 million acres of winter wheat, the highest since 1993. Spring wheat production increased 8 percent from 2007, because farmers seeded more acres and the average yield increased one bushel. The northeastern portion of the state, where most of Montana's durum wheat is produced, suffered from drought during 2008. Durum wheat acres seeded were up 110,000 acres, while production declined 5 percent due to lower yields. Durum wheat yield dropped five bushels per acre from last year. Barley production was up 19 percent from last year, because of an increase in yield of seven bushels per acre.

Montana's farmers and ranchers continue to be stewards of the land, working tirelessly to provide for future generations. Because of the extraordinary people who make a living from the land, Montana's Agricultural Statistics Office is also hopeful about the future of Montana agriculture.

To everyone involved in Montana's agricultural industry, thank you for your continued support. With your help, we can provide sound statistical facts that you can use to chart the future course of **Montana's Number One Industry – Agriculture.**

On a personal note, I am retiring after 32.5 years with USDA, NASS and 14 years as the Director for the Montana Field Office. I love Montana and plan to stay in Helena after retirement. Steve Anderson, the Deputy Director from our Colorado Field Office, will replace me in March as the next Director. Let's give him a big Montana welcome.

I sincerely hope that you and your family have a joyous and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

Peggy Stringer
Director

November 2008 Dry Edible Bean Production

Montana's dry edible bean production was estimated at 210,000 cwt, down 24 percent from the 2007 crop. Planted acreage for 2008 is estimated at 15,000 acres, an 18 percent decrease from last year. Harvested area for 2008 is 14,000 acres, a 16 percent decrease from 2007. The yield is forecast at 1,500 pounds per acre, 170 pounds per acre below last year.

Pinto bean production for Montana is estimated at 179,000 cwt, which is 7 percent lower than last year. Acres planted, at 9,000, are up 6 percent from 2007, but harvested acres are 5 percent lower at 8,000 acres. The yield is forecast at 2,240 pounds per acre, 40 pounds lower than last year.

Production of all chickpea (garbanzo beans) is forecast at 31,000 cwt for 2008, down from 86,000 cwt produced in 2007. Planted acreage was 6,000 acres, down from 9,800 acres planted in 2007. Harvested area is 6,000 acres, down 2,200 acres from 2007. The yield is forecast at 520 pounds per acre, 530 pounds per acre below 2007. Small chickpea production is forecast at 18,000 cwt for 2008. Planted acreage was 2,000 acres. Harvested area is estimated at 2,000 acres. The yield is forecast at 900 pounds per acre. Large chickpea production is forecast at 13,000 cwt for 2008. Planted acreage was 4,000 acres. Harvested area is estimated at 4,000 acres. The yield is forecast at 320 pounds per acre.

U.S. dry edible bean production is forecast at 25.7 million cwt for 2008, up 2 percent from the October forecast and up 1 percent from 2007. Planted area is forecast at 1.50 million acres, up slightly from the October forecast but down 2 percent from 2007. Harvested area is forecast at 1.45 million acres, 2 percent above the October forecast but 2 percent below the previous year's harvested acreage. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,775 pounds per acre, an increase of 1 pound from October's forecast and 59 pounds above the 2007 yield. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record for the U.S.

Production is expected to be lower than 2007 in 9 of the 18 producing States, primarily due to reduced acreage. If realized, Nebraska and New York will have their highest dry bean yields on record, at 2,350 and 1,880 pounds per acre, respectively. Production increased from a year ago for all classes except pinto, large chickpeas, blackeye peas, and small limas. Production remained unchanged for small white.

U.S. Meat Supply and Use

Total U.S. meat production forecasts for 2008 and 2009 are reduced from last month. Forecasts for 2008 for all meats are lowered, reflecting a slowdown in output during the fourth quarter to date. The pork production forecast for 2009 is raised as lower feed costs result in slightly heavier weights, but this gain is more than offset by lower forecasts of beef and poultry. Cattle placements for the remainder of 2008 are expected to be lower which will result in reduced beef production in the first half of 2009. Poultry production is forecast lower as poor returns are expected to result in a continuation of production declines for the first part of 2009. Lower feed prices and higher broiler and turkey prices may stabilize production in the latter part of the year.

Export forecasts for beef are little changed from last month, reflecting actual third-quarter data. Pork and broiler export forecasts are reduced for 2008 and 2009. Demand is expected to remain relatively weak due to economic uncertainty, and a stronger U.S. dollar may further dampen sales. (continued on back page)

U.S. Livestock and Meats Imports and Exports

	2005	2006	Jan-Sept 2007	Jan-Sept 2008
Beef and veal imports		**carcass weight 1,000 lbs**		
Australia	900,016	887,612	665,113	449,481
Canada	1,092,348	843,943	619,083	629,602
New Zealand	603,211	563,553	438,133	443,108
Uruguay	557,051	305,403	321,450	38,437
Brazil	214,355	273,209	212,479	156,075
Argentina	110,356	85,798	52,303	33,553
Nicaragua	63,402	62,590	62,696	75,596
Other	57,770	62,559	57,084	57,329
Total	3,598,509	3,084,666	2,428,341	1,883,182
Beef and veal exports				
Mexico	464,024	660,454	440,471	514,842
Japan	17,496	51,639	120,674	180,021
South Korea	105,895	238,556	241,329	310,796
Canada	1,077	1,283	70,839	89,821
China (Taiwan)	22,394	67,364	49,240	66,197
Other	86,273	125,578	135,706	278,783
Total	697,158	1,144,875	1,058,258	1,440,460
Cattle imports		**head**		
Mexico	1,256,404	1,256,973	696,519	415,121
Canada	559,134	1,031,870	913,170	1,234,789
Other	0	0	0	29
Total	1,815,538	2,288,843	1,609,689	1,649,939
Cattle exports				
Canada	19,406	36,918	33,799	31,804
Mexico	1,003	727	462	46,359
Other	1,198	12,033	5,015	5,912
Total	21,607	49,678	39,276	84,075

U.S. Livestock and Meats Imports and Exports

	2005	2006	Jan-Sept 2007	Jan-Sept 2008
Lamb and mutton imports		**carcass weight 1,000 lbs**		
Australia	131,175	142,102	104,123	89,405
New Zealand	48,312	47,733	38,955	46,688
Other	730	531	490	443
Total	180,217	190,366	143,568	136,536
Lamb and mutton exports				
Total	9,265	18,210	7,650	8,391
Pork imports				
Canada	836,728	793,059	589,179	463,380
Denmark	99,676	102,988	74,385	66,977
Poland	25,633	24,266	18,705	21,854
Mexico	19,605	33,232	31,359	31,714
Other	42,206	36,134	22,586	30,308
Total	1,023,847	989,679	736,215	614,232
Pork exports				
Japan	1,045,956	1,015,423	800,484	997,251
Mexico	538,227	608,937	319,434	459,406
Canada	302,211	324,935	256,865	310,917
South Korea	190,085	293,416	181,764	234,607
Russia	94,099	208,744	146,877	357,629
China (Main)	123,222	111,943	142,925	342,208
Other	372,316	431,698	334,260	916,846
Total	2,666,116	2,995,096	2,182,609	3,618,864
Hog imports		**head**		
Canada	8,190,467	8,763,378	7,135,340	7,265,169
Total	8,190,801	8,763,378	7,135,371	7,265,169
Hog exports				
Total	153,650	164,621	96,647	92,635

SOURCE: Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Situation and Outlook, November 13, 2008

October 2008 Ag Prices Received

October full month crop prices were lower when compared with September 2008. The price for Montana's winter wheat, at $6.70 per bushel, was $0.56 lower than September 2008. Spring wheat decreased $0.95 from last month to $7.28 per bushel. Durum wheat was $0.30 below September 2008, at $11.80 per bushel. All barley, at $5.74 per bushel, was $0.38 below last month. Feed barley was $0.39 below the previous month at $3.67 per bushel. Malt barley decreased $0.41 from a month ago to $5.82 per bushel.

The mid-November price for alfalfa hay was $15.00 below October 2008 at $107.00 per ton and all other hay decreased $1.00 from October to $103.00 per ton. The preliminary November grain prices were lower than the previous month with winter wheat at $5.74 per bushel, spring wheat was $7.10 per bushel, durum wheat was $9.16 per bushel, all barley was $5.48 per bushel, feed barley was $2.54 per bushel, and malt barley was $5.60 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of October were lower when compared with last month. Steer and heifers decreased $1.00 from September 2008 to $103.00 per cwt. Cows dropped $5.40 from last month to $45.50 per cwt. Beef cattle were $5.80 lower than last month at $89.20 per cwt. The price for calves decreased $2.00 from a month ago to $109.00 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $3.30 from last month to $12.20 per cwt. Lamb prices dropped $1.70 from September to $95.10 per cwt. The all milk price was $1.00 below a month ago at $18.40 per cwt.

The mid-November livestock prices were mostly lower than last month. Steer and heifers were $105.00 per cwt, cows were $41.60 per cwt, beef cattle were $86.00 per cwt, and calves were $112.00 per cwt. The all milk price was $17.10 per cwt.

Nationally, October prices and changes from September 2008 were as follows: winter wheat was $6.05 per bushel, down $0.94; spring wheat was $7.26 per bushel, down $0.51, durum wheat was $12.00 per bushel, up $0.20, all barley was $5.61 per bushel, down $0.13, oats were $3.25 per bushel, down $0.04, feed barley was $4.14 per bushel, malt barley was $6.28 per bushel, steers and heifers were $93.00 per cwt, down $6.30, cows were $48.30 per cwt, down $6.20, calves were $107.00 per cwt, down $6.00, sheep were $21.80, down $2.00, lambs were $97.50 per cwt, down $2.10 and all milk was $17.70 per cwt, down $0.50.

The U.S. mid-November prices were lower when compared with October. Winter wheat was $5.34 per bushel, spring wheat was $6.75 per bushel, durum wheat was $9.78 per bushel, all wheat was $6.13 per bushel, oats were $2.37 per bushel, malt barley was $5.35 per bushel, and feed barley was $3.54 per bushel. Steers and heifers were $93.00 per cwt, cows were $44.70 per cwt, beef cattle were $87.20 per cwt, calves were $106.00 per cwt, all hogs were $41.40 per cwt, all milk was $17.40 per cwt, and the all egg price was $1.03 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 139 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 12 points (7.9 percent) from October. The Crop Index is down 16 points (9.5 percent) and the Livestock Index decreased 2 points (1.6 percent). Producers received lower prices for soybeans, corn, lettuce, and hogs and higher prices for tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, and cantaloupes. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of milk, cattle, cotton, and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts, and lettuce.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	October 2007	November 2007	October 2008	November 2008
Prices Received	140	141	154	145
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	162	163	191	188
Ratio 2/	87	86	81	77

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change from Previous		Mid-Month Avg	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Oct 2007	Sept 2008	Oct 2008	Oct 2008	Sept 2008	Oct 2007	15-Nov-08	15-Nov-08
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu	7.32	7.26	6.70	6.05	-0.56	-0.62	5.74	5.34
Durum Wheat	Bu	9.52	12.10	11.80	12.00	-0.30	+2.28	9.16	9.78
Spring Wheat	Bu	7.57	8.23	7.28	7.26	-0.95	-0.29	7.10	6.75
All Wheat	Bu	7.59	7.83	7.30	6.67	-0.53	-0.29	6.55	6.13
All Barley	Bu	4.26	6.12	5.74	5.61	-0.38	+1.48	5.48	4.77
Feed Barley	Bu	4.79	4.06	3.67	4.14	-0.39	-1.12	2.54	3.54
Malt Barley	Bu	4.03	6.23	5.82	6.28	-0.41	+1.79	5.60	5.35
Oats	Bu	2.34	2.89	na	3.25	na	na	na	2.37
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	73.00	132.00	122.00	172.00	-10.00	+49.00	107.00	163.00
All Other Hay	Ton	71.00	106.00	104.00	122.00	-2.00	+33.00	103.00	116.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	72.00	128.00	119.00	157.00	-9.00	+47.00	106.00	147.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	114.00	104.00	103.00	93.00	-1.00	-11.00	105.00	93.00
Cows	Cwt	45.70	50.90	45.50	48.30	-5.40	-0.20	41.60	44.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	99.00	95.00	89.20	87.90	-5.80	-9.80	86.00	87.20
Calves	Cwt	125.00	111.00	109.00	107.00	-2.00	-16.00	112.00	106.00
Sheep	Cwt	19.40	15.50	12.20	21.80	-3.30	-7.20	na	na
Lambs	Cwt	98.80	96.80	95.10	97.50	-1.70	-3.70	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	22.70	19.40	18.40	17.70	-1.00	-4.30	17.10	17.40

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. na-not available.

U.S. Meat Supply and Use (continued from page two)

Cattle, broiler, and turkey price forecasts for both 2008 and 2009 are lowered as demand is weaker than expected. Forecast hog prices are reduced slightly in 2008, but are unchanged for 2009 as supplies of competing meats are lowered. Egg prices are little changed.

Milk production forecasts for 2008 and 2009 are reduced slightly from last month. The cow number forecasts are unchanged. Forecast milk per cow for both years is reduced reflecting the continued slow rate of growth in output per cow. Commercial export forecasts for 2008 are raised as export data points towards stronger-than-expected sales, especially on a fat basis. However, the forecasts for 2009 are unchanged as weaker international demand is expected to limit exports. Fat basis imports for 2008 are reduced due to weaker demand but skim-solids imports are adjusted to reflect higher-than-expected third-quarter imports. Weakness in demand for fat basis imports is expected to carry into 2009, thus the fat basis import forecast for 2009 is lowered. Sales of nonfat dry milk (NDM) to the CCC are forecast for higher 2008 and 2009.

The Class III price for 2008 is raised due to higher cheese prices, but the Class IV price forecast is lower due to lower butter and NDM price forecasts. Class III and Class IV prices for 2009 are reduced from last month as most product price forecasts are lowered. Demand both domestically and in international markets will likely be affected by economic weakness. Although relative product values may encourage milk to shift to cheese production, butter and NDM prices will be pressured by relatively weak demand for much of the year. Cheese prices are forecast weaker as domestic demand lags in a weak economy. Although the whey price is unchanged from last month, weaker cheese prices will push the Class III price lower while lower butter and NDM prices will result in a reduced Class IV price. The 2008 all milk price forecast is unchanged this month, averaging $18.30 to $18.40 per cwt, but the 2009 forecast is lowered to $14.95 to $15.75 per cwt.

U.S. Meats Supply and Use, 2007 and Projected 2008 and 2009

Item		Beginning Stocks	Production 1/	Imports	Total Supply	Exports	Ending Stocks	Consumption Total	Consumption Per Capita 2/, 3/
		Million pounds 4/							
Beef									
2007		630	26,523	3,052	30,205	1,434	630	28,141	65.2
2008 Proj.	Nov	630	26,801	2,443	29,874	1,841	595	27,438	63.0
	Dec	630	26,691	2,452	29,773	1,860	595	27,318	62.7
2009 Proj.	Nov	595	26,752	2,595	29,942	1,920	595	27,427	62.4
	Dec	595	26,642	2,595	29,832	1,920	595	27,317	62.1
Pork									
2007		514	21,962	968	23,444	3,141	536	19,767	50.8
2008 Proj.	Nov	536	23,471	832	24,839	5,068	640	19,131	48.7
	Dec	536	23,438	813	24,787	4,769	640	19,378	49.3
2009 Proj.	Nov	640	23,094	850	24,584	4,500	640	19,444	49.0
	Dec	640	23,144	850	24,634	4,100	640	19,894	50.2
Broilers									
2007		732	35,739	61	36,532	5,904	719	29,909	85.0
2008 Proj.	Nov	719	36,745	75	37,539	6,719	700	30,120	84.8
	Dec	719	36,599	77	37,395	6,731	700	29,964	84.4
2009 Proj.	Nov	700	36,347	80	37,127	6,275	690	30,162	84.2
	Dec	700	36,134	80	36,914	6,150	690	30,074	83.9
Turkeys									
2007		218	5,880	10	6,108	547	261	5,300	17.5
2008 Proj.	Nov	261	6,185	11	6,456	643	320	5,493	18.0
	Dec	261	6,170	10	6,440	654	350	5,436	17.8
2009 Proj.	Nov	320	6,025	12	6,357	605	285	5,467	17.8
	Dec	350	5,990	12	6,352	605	285	5,462	17.7

1/ Total including farm production for red meats and, for poultry, federally inspected plus non federally inspected, less condemnations. 2/ Pounds, retail weight basis. 3/ Population source: Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau. 4/ Carcass weight for red meats and certified ready-to-cook weight for poultry. Source: World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates, WAOB, December 11, 2008.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Egg Production
Hog & Pig Inventory

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